

The MERC Signal



Emergency Response Guidebook Update

Printing and distributing the 2004 version of the Emergency Response Guidebook moves forward. The Federal Department of Transportation sent the guidebook to the printers. The Missouri Emergency Response Commission (MERC) anticipates receiving the Guidebooks by the end of September. The MERC, the Division of Fire Safety and the Highway Patrol will distribute the Guidebooks. The MERC will distribute the books through LEPCs and through LEPC sponsored classes. Fire Safety will distribute the books to Fire Departments. The Highway Patrol will distribute the books to Law Enforcement agencies.

Reporting Suspicious Activity Criteria for Infrastructure Owners and Operators

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) encourage facility owners or operators to report suspicious or criminal activity information to the local FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). Region FBI telephone numbers can be found online at www.fbi.gov/contact. Or information may be reported to the Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC) or the National Infrastructure Coordination Center (NICC), a sub element of the HSOC in support of the private sector and critical infrastructure. The HSOC can be reached by telephone at 202-282-8101 or by email at HSCenter@dhs.gov. The NICC/HSOC can be reached by telephone 202-282-9201 or by email at NICC@dhs.gov.

Call 9-1-1 if there is a life-threatening incident. Call the National Response Center at 800-424-8802 if there is an oil spill, suspicious activity or a terrorist threat. Their voice recording still indicates they should be notified.

For suspicious activity, each report submitted should include the date, time, location, type of surveillance, number of people and type of equipment used for the activity, the name of the submitting company and a designated point of contact (POC).

Overview: DHS and the FBI request that the owners and operators of the nation's critical infrastructure/key resource facilities provide reporting on the following types of suspicious activities since they are potentially indicative of pre-operational terrorist planning:

Surveillance/Probing Activity:

- Report attempts to test or conduct reconnaissance of security operations at critical infrastructure/key resource facilities, high profile venues or sector-specific events.
- Report any persons showing uncommon interest in security measures or personnel, entry points or access controls, or perimeters barriers such as fences or walls.
- Report any persons showing uncommon interest in critical infrastructure/key resource facilities, networks, or systems (e.g. photography or videotaping assts).
- Report any theft or missing official company identification documents, uniforms, credentials, or vehicles necessary for accessing critical infrastructure/key resource facilities or sector-specific events.

- Report all suspicious attempts to recruit employees or persons knowledgeable about key personnel or critical infrastructure/key resource facilities, networks, or systems.

- Report any theft, purchase or suspicious means of obtaining plans, blueprints, alarm system schematics, or similar physical security-related or sensitive information related to a facility with critical infrastructure/key resource facilities and systems.

- Report any persons near critical infrastructure/key resource facilities who do not fit the surrounding environment, such as individuals wearing improper attire for conditions or not normally present in the area

Training Reminder

This is just a reminder to schedule Awareness and Operations Training through your county LEPC. By scheduling through the LEPC, the training books for the courses are provided by the MERC at no charge and LEPC funds can be used to pay the instructor fees. Any questions regarding this should be directed to Bob Dopp, MERC Executive Director, at 800-780-1014 or 573-526-9237 or bdopp01@mail.state.mo.us

(such as homeless persons, demonstrators, or street sweepers).

- Report any pedestrian surveillance near critical infrastructure/key resource facilities involving any surveillance activity of sensitive operations, including photography, videotaping, or extensive note-taking/use of audio recorder (regardless of the number of individuals involved), or mobile surveillance by cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats or small aircraft.

Threats/Warnings:

- Report all threats/warnings that could affect the reliability and operation of the nation's critical infrastructure/key resources.

- Report discoveries of website postings which make violent threats specific to critical infrastructures or sector specific events.

What are critical infrastructures and key resource facilities? They are banking, finance and chemical companies, defense industrial bases, electric power generators or suppliers, emergency services, food/agriculture producers, information technology, National Monuments or Icons, oil & natural gas producers, public health, telecommunications, transportation (rail/mass transit, maritime, aviation or highways).

Enhancing Rail Transportation Security

The Department of Transportation (DOT) had the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are examining the need for enhanced security requirements for the rail transportation of hazardous materials that pose a toxic inhalation hazard. The two departments are seeking comments on the feasibility of initiating specific security enhancements and the potential costs and benefits of doing so.

Security measures being considered include improvements to security plans, modification of methods used to identify shipments, enhanced requirements for temporary storage, strengthening tank car integrity, and implementation of tracking and communications systems.

Submit comments by October 18 via email at www.access.gpo.gov.

Recall Notice – CBRN Gas Mask Canister

August 11, 2004, the Mine Safety Appliance Company (MSA) sent a letter to

customers voluntarily recalling a limited number of CBRN Gas Mask Canisters – MSA part number 10046570. This recall is due to a manufacturing condition that MSA discovered through internal quality testing that can affect the strength of the seal between the two halves of the canister. There have been no field reports of any type related to this condition.

It is important customers properly identify any affected canisters and contact the MSA to obtain no-charge replacement canisters as soon as possible.

The internal quality evaluation indicates that if affected canisters are sharply impacted or dropped, the seal may be compromised and result in leakage. Although affected canisters will maintain a seal if not impacted or dropped, MSA recommends that all canisters that meet the identification criteria described below be returned to MSA for replacement.

Affected canisters can be identified by examining any three product markings. These include the marking on the box of 20 canisters, the individual canister box label or the identification canister label. Do not open a canister bay to identify an affected canister. The canisters being recalled have an expiration date of '0509' or '0609' (may or June 2009). However, certain canisters having these expiration dates may be acceptable for use.

If you have affected canisters, please determine the quantity of unused canisters in your possession that are subject to this recall and contact MSA Customer Service at 1-888-421-8324 to order replacement canisters and make arrangements to return the recalled canisters.

Recalled CBRN Canister Identification
Marking on box of 20 canisters: Expiration Date of '0509' or '0609' **AND no green sticker on the box.**

Marking on the individual canister box or bag label: Expiration Date of '0509' or '0609' **AND no lot number.**

Water Terrorism Preparedness Website

Patricia L. Meinhardt, MD, MPH, MA has prepared an on-line terrorism preparedness guide that addresses public health and security resulting from intentional acts of water terrorism. The website is www.WaterHealthConnection.org. The

website was developed to assist medical, public health, water, public utility and emergency response professionals deal with water terrorism.

While it is not realistic to believe we can prevent the first cases of illness resulting from intentional acts of water terrorism, professionals can play a critical role in minimizing the impact of such an event by using disaster preparedness resources to help recognize and manage such an attack on our community. Preparedness and access to ready made tools may make the difference between a controlled response to an act of water terrorism versus a public health crisis.

OSHA Toxic Chemicals

The OSHA hazard communication standard at 29CFR1910.1200 regulates chemicals that pose either a physical or health hazard to workers. Toxicity is one of the several OSHA health hazards that are frequently misunderstood. As defined in 29CFR1910.1200 Appendix A, a highly toxic chemical is one that falls within any of the following categories:

A chemical that has a median lethal dose (LD50) of 50 milligrams or less per kilogram of body weight when administered orally to albino rats weighing between 200 and 300 grams each.

A chemical that has a median LD50 of 200 milligrams or less per kilogram of body weight when administered by continuous contact for 24 hours (or less if death occurs within 24 hours) with the bare skin of albino rabbits weighing between two and three kilograms each.

A chemical that has a median lethal concentration (LC50) in air of 200 ppm by volume or less of gas or vapor, or 2 milligrams per liter or less of mist, fume or dust, when administered by continuous inhalation of one hour (or less if death occurs within one hour) to albino rats weighing between 200 and 300 grams each.

A toxic chemical is one that:

Has a LD50 or more than 50 milligrams per kilogram but not more than 500 milligrams per kilogram of body weight when administered orally to albino rats weighing between 200 and 300 grams each.

Has a LD 50 of more than 200 milligrams per kilogram but not more than 1000 milligrams per kilogram of body weight when administered by continuous contact for 24 hours (or less if death occurs within 24 hours) with the bare skin or albino rabbits weighing between two and three

kilograms each.

Has a median lethal concentration of LC50 in air of more than 200 parts per million but not more than 2000 parts per million by volume of gas or vapor or more than two milligrams per liter but not more than 20 milligrams per liter of mist, fume, or dust when administered by continuous inhalation for one hour (or less if death occurs within one hour) to albino rats weighing between 200 and 300 grams each.

Work places with toxic or highly toxic chemicals (as well as any of the other

OSHA physical or health hazards) are required to comply with OSHA's MSDA hazard communication plan, training, and labeling requirements.

MO Rev Statutes 292.604 – Distribution of Funds

MO Rev Statutes 292.604 states sixty-five percent of the funds collected under subsection 2 of section 292.606 shall be provided to the local emergency planning committees for their responsibilities under sections 292.600 to 292.625 and the federal

act. This distribution was mailed on August 25, 2004. All 114 county LEPC's and the City of St Louis in Missouri received grant funding.

Awareness & Operations Training Update

The MERC has sent out over 6,500 awareness and operations student manuals during fiscal year 2004, for training First Responders in Missouri.

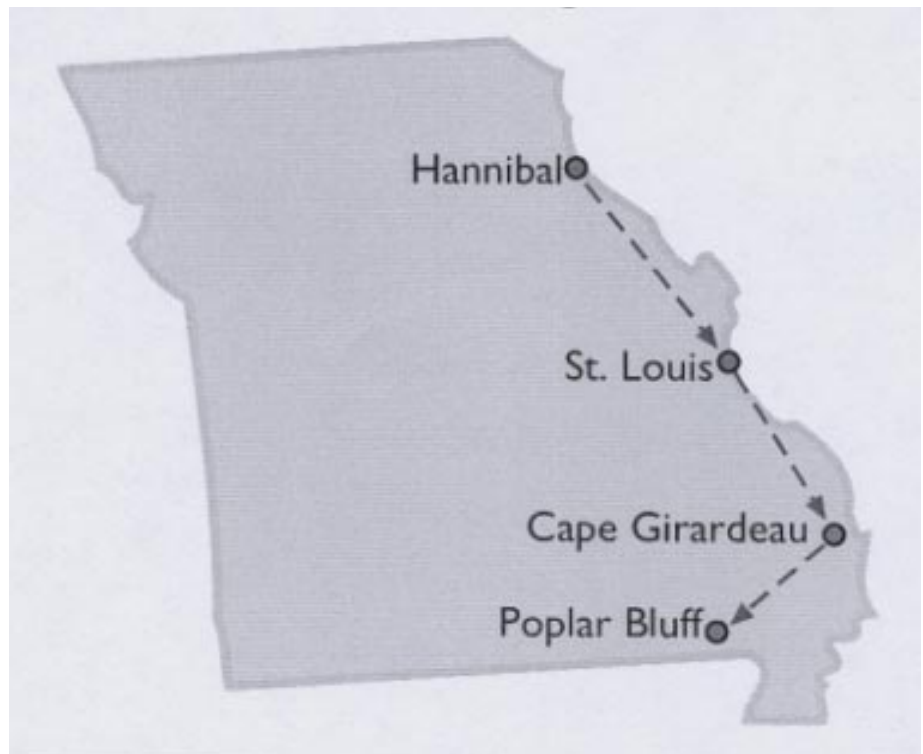
2004 Missouri Transcaer Training Tour

Hazardous Materials accidents can happen on our rail system. LEPCs, First Responders – HAZMAT responders, fire, and police will have the opportunity to attend one of four Transcaer Training Tours in October. The training sites are:

- Hannibal on Oct 5-6,
- St. Louis on Oct 12,
- Cape Girardeau on Oct. 14
- Poplar Bluff on Oct 16.

Class participants will receive both class and hands-on training. Training equipment includes:

- UP Training Tank Car
- BSNF Training Tank Car
- Railroad Locomotive
- Training Tank Trailer
- Cryogenic Training Trailer
- Bayer Training Trailer
- Intermodal Tank Container



To learn more about attending a Missouri Transcaer session, go to: www.transcaer.com